**Swan City Council Meeting Minutes**

**July 12, 2022**

**Present:** Mayor Harding, Clerk Heywood, Councilmen Downing, Gobbel, Harding, Harding, Smith. Visitors Keegan Jarvis, Christian LeZotte, Jenny Pitts, Debi Sabbann, David Thornburg

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m.

The minutes were approved. 1) S. Harding 2) Gobbel All were in agreement

The first visitor to be recognized was Jenny Pitts, owner of the old school building. Ms. Pitts was upset that her water had disconnected previously in the month. The mayor explained that her water could not be turned on without the payment of a deposit (which was taken care of at the time of the incident) and an updated septic inspection certificate. However, her water IS currently connected, per the mayor’s allowance. A discussion addressed some miscommunication that occurred and the clerk explaining the difference between a reconnect fee and deposit. Mayor Harding explained that current inspections are necessary because of the city being on the Red Rock watershed. Non-compliant sewer systems could ultimately result in the city being forced into a sewer lagoon system. Ms. Pitts’ primary reason for being in attendance at the meeting was to complain about the previous shut-off and to voice her opinion that she should have had prior notice before the disconnect happened.

Visitor Keegan Jarvis interjected. He is developing the property at the corner of Church and Hawthorne streets. He started his comments in regards to the previous conversation about the DNR, disagreeing with some of the mayor’s comments. Mayor Harding pointed out to him that the ordinance to which he earlier referred was the city’s, not the county’s. Ms. Pitts voiced her opinion that the inspection ordinance is in place in order to force owners on sewer systems out. Councilwoman Harding explained some of the city’s thoughts behind the ordinance. Councilman Harding said that it’s not very hard to get a copy of one’s inspection and the mayor pointed out that Ms. Pitts has not been super-communicative when he’s asked for the inspection certificate. He asked how much longer would be needed and Ms. Pitts allowed that she didn’t know, but said she thought she could get it by the end of July.

Next, Councilwoman Smith brought up the fireworks that happened beyond the limitations the city ordinance allows. Visitor Debi Sabbann began to complain about a party involving fireworks that had had taken place next door to her house on July 9. Keegan Jarvis asked why this was being brought up at a council meeting – why can’t neighbors talk to one another about issues that arise? The owner of the property being complained out did not know about the ordinance because it never crossed the city clerk’s mind to pass along that information. But, even with that, Councilwoman Harding pointed out that not all cities send out reminders about ordinances. Councilwoman Smith said that if the neighbor was a nice guy, he would not have had the fireworks going so late. Visitor David Thornburg reminded everyone that the homeowner in question is a very young man and what seems late to an older person may not to one still in their youth.

Keegan Jarvis was officially recognized, along with his girlfriend, Christina LeZotte. Mr. Jarvis began his remarks by assuring the council that he has no greater desire than for community and desires to be a good neighbor. He has been receiving calls from the DNR and is irritated, wishing that any neighbors who have a problem with his property development talk to him directly. Mr. Thornburg assured him that he was not the one making the calls.

Councilman B. Harding asked Keegan about all the junk on his property. Keegan explained his plans to the council and visitors and expressed his frustration about being told he’s in violation of ordinances he knows nothing about. Mayor Harding reminded Mr. Jarvis that he told him at the start of his renovations, that any building and hauling materials need to be inside a building. Anything outside a structure becomes the city’s business. At this, Ms. LeZotte pointed out that the mayor has much junk still at the properties he’s recently demolished.

Councilman B. Harding asked if the building Keegan intends to build is going to be used for business. Mayor Harding said that is the owner’s business, not the city’s.

At this point, Jenny Pitts interjected her opinion that ordinances should be printed off before anyone associated with the city government talks to residents about violations. The mayor explained the long-standing practice of a courtesy letter first being sent, followed by a certified letter, which is then followed up with a call to the sheriff if no noticeable action is taken. Ms. Pitts asked how the city council can overrule state laws.

Her question was never answered because Councilwoman Harding told everyone to be quiet and said none of this was on the agenda. Neighborly conversations need to happen and the meeting needed to move on.

Keegan Jarvis told the council that he intends to respect their ordinance regarding no water without connected service through a pit. Mayor Harding assured Mr. Jarvis that the city wants him for a neighbor. The main beef that some have has to do with the commercial and industrial supplies that are not yet located inside a storage facility. Keegan replied that the mess is part of the property development.

The conversation became more heated. Councilman Gobbel asked Mr. Jarvis if he wants water, to which was replied in the affirmative. The councilman told him that the city will be happy to supply it if he meets the septic permit requirement. Mr. Jarvis asked if residents would be happier if he put up a fence that would block the view of any supplies on his property. The mayor said it needs to be in a building of some sort.

David Thornburg said that he doesn’t like the fact that Keegan brings in his supplies late at night. In his opinion, it looks “suspicious.” Keegan explained his time constraints that necessitate off-hours hauling. He said that he would like to see the ordinance that doesn’t allow him to have his supplies in public view. Mayor Harding told him this falls under the city’s General Nuisance ordinance. Keegan said that he would like the entire ordinance book. Councilwoman Harding assured him that she would get him a copy.

Then, the councilwoman asked the council what they thought about Keegan’s proposed fence. Councilman Gobbel said that if Keegan shows a willingness to work with the city’s request, the council would be willing to work with him.

Councilwoman Downing said that the Collins are not happy about Mr. Jarvis’ construction and mess. Keegan immediately said that he was surprised by that, but would stop and talk with them.

Mayor Harding told Mr. Jarvis that he should clean up the mess and then build his fence.

Ms. Pitts commented that if the city is going to mention a particular ordinance to residents, they should be prepared to show the ordinance. Councilwoman Harding said an effort will be made to that end.

Next, Councilman Gobbel brought up the subject of weeding at the city park. He said it needs to be done more than just a couple times a year. It was decided to table this topic until the next meeting.

The mayor commented that the swing set needs to be repaired, still. Jenny Pitts said that she can offer a recommendation for that work.

A motion was made to pay the bills: 1) Gobbel 2) Smith All were in agreement

A motion was made to adjourn: 1) S. Harding 2) Downing All were in agreement

Next meeting: August 9, 2022